

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
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***For Immediate Release***

## **MARQUEZ PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG AND MACHINE GUN CHARGES**

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - June 8, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that Ricky Edmundo Marquez, aka “Rock,” pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute approximately 33,000 ecstasy tablets and possession of an unregistered machine gun. The guilty pleas were accepted by Chief Judge Marilyn L. Huff in United States District Court in San Diego, who set sentencing for Marquez on August 30, 2004.

Marquez, who was charged in two separate Indictments on February 19, 2004, is a resident of La Mesa, California, and has remained in custody since his arrest in January 2004.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward C. Weiner, who is prosecuting the case, a witness made a controlled purchase of ecstasy tablets from Marquez in May 2003. Thereafter, Marquez made a number of trips to Europe, alerting law enforcement to his source of supply in Rotterdam, Holland. That individual, Marcel Van der Basch, remains in custody pending his next scheduled court appearance on June 28, 2004.

During the course of the investigation, Marquez offered to sell machine guns to the witness, and gave the witness information about a gunsmith who could manufacture machine guns and silencers. That individual, Michael Wayne Jackson, pled guilty on April 21, 2004, to the manufacture of illegal firearms and is pending sentencing. Marquez also pled guilty today to possessing a firearm, a Bushmaster rifle converted to a machine gun, which Marquez sold to the witness in December 2003.

United States Attorney Lam said, "Once again, illegal drugs and illegal firearms have been shown to go hand in hand. The Drug Enforcement Administration and Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives have now taken suppliers of both off our streets."

As part of the Plea Agreement, Marquez will forfeit his 2003 Honda Pilot, which he used to transport the machine gun.

**DEFENDANT:**

Ricky Edmundo Marquez

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES:** Criminal Case No. 04CR0434-H

Conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance (Count 2)  
(21 U.S.C. Sections 841(a)(1) and 846)

**MAXIMUM PENALTY:** 20 years, \$1,000,000 fine

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES:** Criminal Case No. 04CR0435-H

Possession of an Unregistered Firearm (Count 4)  
(26 U.S.C. Sections 5861(d) and 5871)

**MAXIMUM PENALTY:** 10 years, \$10,000 fine, and criminal forfeiture

**INVESTIGATING AGENCIES:**

Drug Enforcement Administration/Narcotics Task Force  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives